

I urge you to promote a diverse, balanced, and competitive media. Please stop your planned rule change on June 2. We allow media companies to use the airwaves in exchange for their assurance that they're serving the public interest, and it's your job to make sure that's so.

The concern that I and many others have is that if you allow the rule change the resulting concentration of ownership could be deeply destructive to our democracy. For true democracy to work, people need easy access to independent, diverse sources of news and information.

The U.S. media was already fairly homogenous in the early 80s: some fifty media conglomerates dominated all media outlets, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines, music, publishing and film. In the year 2000, just six corporations dominated the U.S. media.

Consolidation works against diversity of news sources, balance in reporting, a wide range of voices being heard, and attention to local issues. News corporations have shown time and again that they are willing to sacrifice journalism to improve the bottom line. There is a growing tendency by large news corporations to shape the news rather than report the news.

STOP THE CHANGE!